

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Systems engineering—System life cycle
processes**

AS/NZS 15288:2003

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Systems engineering—System life cycle processes

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-015, Software Engineering. This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO/IEC 15288:2002, *Systems engineering—System life cycle processes*.

The objective of this Standard is to establish a common framework for describing the life cycle of systems created by humans and a set of well-defined processes and associated terminology. Selected sets of these processes may be applied throughout the life cycle for managing and performing the stages of a system's life cycle. This is accomplished through the involvement of all interested parties with the ultimate goal of achieving customer satisfaction.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which they apply. A 'normative' annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' annex is only for information and guidance.

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope	1
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 Field Of Application	1
1.3 Limitations	1
2 Conformance	2
2.1 Intended Usage	2
2.2 Full Conformance	2
2.3 Tailored Conformance	2
3 Normative reference	2
4 Terms and definitions	2
5 System Life Cycle Processes	5
5.1 Introduction	5
5.2 Agreement Processes	6
5.2.1 Introduction	6
5.2.2 Acquisition Process	6
5.2.3 Supply Process	7
5.3 Enterprise Processes	8
5.3.1 Introduction	8
5.3.2 Enterprise Environment Management Process	9
5.3.3 Investment Management Process	10
5.3.4 System Life Cycle Processes Management Process	11
5.3.5 Resource Management Process	12
5.3.6 Quality Management Process	13
5.4 Project Processes	13
5.4.1 Introduction	13
5.4.2 Project Planning Process	14
5.4.3 Project Assessment Process	15
5.4.4 Project Control Process	17
5.4.5 Decision-making Process	18
5.4.6 Risk Management Process	19
5.4.7 Configuration Management Process	20
5.4.8 Information Management Process	21
5.5 Technical Processes	22
5.5.1 Introduction	22
5.5.2 Stakeholder Requirements Definition Process	23
5.5.3 Requirements Analysis Process	25
5.5.4 Architectural Design Process	27
5.5.5 Implementation Process	29
5.5.6 Integration Process	30
5.5.7 Verification Process	31
5.5.8 Transition Process	32
5.5.9 Validation Process	33
5.5.10 Operation Process	35
5.5.11 Maintenance Process	36
5.5.12 Disposal Process	37
6 System Life Cycle Stages	39
6.1 Introduction	39

6.2	Life Cycle Models	39
6.3	Life Cycle Stages	39
Annex A	(normative) Tailoring Process	40
A.1	Introduction.....	40
A.2	Tailoring Process	40
A.2.1	Purpose of the Tailoring Process	40
A.2.2	Tailoring Process Outcomes.....	40
A.2.3	Tailoring Process Activities	40
Annex B	(informative) Life Cycle Stages	42
B.1	Introduction.....	42
B.2	Concept Stage	42
B.2.1	Overview.....	42
B.2.2	Purpose of the Concept Stage	43
B.2.3	Concept Stage Outcomes.....	43
B.3	Development Stage	43
B.3.1	Overview.....	43
B.3.2	Purpose of the Development Stage.....	44
B.3.3	Development Stage Outcomes	44
B.4	Production Stage.....	45
B.4.1	Overview.....	45
B.4.2	Purpose of the Production Stage	45
B.4.3	Production Stage Outcomes	45
B.5	Utilization Stage.....	45
B.5.1	Overview.....	45
B.5.2	Purpose of the Utilization Stage	46
B.5.3	Utilization Stage Outcomes.....	46
B.6	Support Stage	46
B.6.1	Overview.....	46
B.6.2	Purpose of the Support Stage.....	47
B.6.3	Support Stage Outcomes	47
B.7	Retirement Stage	47
B.7.1	Overview.....	47
B.7.2	Purpose of the Retirement Stage.....	48
B.7.3	Retirement Stage Outcomes	48
Annex C	(informative) Relationship between ISO/IEC 15288 and ISO/IEC 12207:1995/AMD.1:2002.....	49
C.1	Diagrammatic representation.....	49
C.2	Tabular representation	50
Annex D	(informative) Concepts	52
D.1	System Concepts	52
D.1.1	Introduction.....	52
D.1.2	Systems	52
D.1.3	System Structure.....	53
D.1.4	Hierarchy in Systems and Projects	54
D.1.5	Enabling Systems.....	55
D.2	Life Cycle Concepts	56
D.2.1	System Life Cycle Model	56
D.2.2	System Life Cycle Stages	56
D.2.3	Stages in a system-of-interest and its enabling systems	57
D.3	Process Concepts	58
D.3.1	Life Cycle Processes	58
D.3.2	Responsibilities and Agreements within and between Organizations	59
D.3.3	Process application.....	60
	Bibliography.....	62

INTRODUCTION

The complexity of man-made systems has increased to an unprecedented level. This has led to new opportunities, but also to increased challenges for the organizations that create and utilize systems. These challenges exist throughout the life cycle of a system and at all levels of structural detail. They arise from several sources:

- there are inherent differences among the hardware, software and human elements from which systems are constructed.
- almost every present-day system contains, and/or is modelled and supported by computer-based technology.
- there is a lack of harmonization and integration of the involved disciplines, including science, engineering, management and finance.

There is therefore a need for a common framework to improve communication and co-operation among the parties that create, utilize and manage modern systems in order that they can work in an integrated, coherent fashion.

This International Standard provides a common process framework covering the life cycle of man-made systems. This life cycle spans the conception of ideas through to the retirement of a system. It provides the processes for acquiring and supplying systems. In addition, this framework provides for the assessment and improvement of the life cycle processes.

The processes in this International Standard form a comprehensive set from which an organization can construct system life cycle models appropriate to its products and services. An organization, depending on its purpose, can select and apply an appropriate subset to fulfil that purpose.

This International Standard can be used in one or more of the following modes:

- By an organization — to help establish an environment of desired processes. These processes can be supported by an infrastructure of methods, procedures, techniques, tools and trained personnel. The organization may then employ this environment to perform and manage its projects and progress systems through their life cycle stages. In this mode this International Standard is used to assess conformance of a declared, established environment to its provisions.
- By a project — to help select, structure and employ the elements of an established environment to provide products and services. In this mode this International Standard is used in the assessment of conformance of the project to the declared and established environment.
- By an acquirer and a supplier — to help develop an agreement concerning processes and activities. Via the agreement, the processes and activities in this International Standard are selected, negotiated, agreed to and performed. In this mode this International Standard is used for guidance in developing the agreement.

This International Standard contains requirements in three Clauses: Clause 5, that defines the requirements for the system life cycle processes, Clause 6, that defines the requirements for stages in a life cycle, and Annex A, that provides requirements for tailoring of this International Standard. Three informative annexes are also contained in this International Standard: Annex B, that provides an example of the use of stages in life cycles, Annex C, that shows its relationship with ISO/IEC 12207:1995/AMD.1:2002 Information technology — Software life cycle processes, and Annex D, that describes the key concepts that it uses. Readers new to this International Standard are advised to consult Annex D to gain an appreciation of these concepts.

AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

Systems engineering — System life cycle processes

1 Scope

1.1 Purpose

This International Standard establishes a common framework for describing the life cycle of systems created by humans. It defines a set of processes and associated terminology. These processes can be applied at any level in the hierarchy of a system's structure. Selected sets of these processes can be applied throughout the life cycle for managing and performing the stages of a system's life cycle. This is accomplished through the involvement of all interested parties with the ultimate goal of achieving customer satisfaction.

This International Standard also provides processes that support the definition, control and improvement of the life cycle processes used within an organization or a project. Organizations and projects can use these life cycle processes when acquiring and supplying systems.

This International Standard concerns those systems that are man-made and may be configured with one or more of the following: hardware, software, humans, processes (e.g. review process), procedures (e.g. operator instructions), facilities and naturally occurring entities (e.g. water, organisms, minerals).

1.2 Field Of Application

This International Standard applies to the full life cycle of systems, including conception, development, production, utilization, support and retirement of systems, and to the acquisition and supply of systems, whether performed internally or externally to an organization. The life cycle processes of this International Standard can be applied concurrently, iteratively and recursively to a system and its elements.

There is a wide variety of systems in terms of their purpose, domain of application, complexity, size, novelty, adaptability, quantities, locations, life spans and evolution. This International Standard describes the processes that comprise the life cycle of any man-made system. It therefore applies to one-of-a-kind systems, mass-produced systems and customized, adaptable systems.

This International Standard applies to organizations in their role as both acquirers and suppliers. It can be used by a single party in a self-imposed mode or in a multi-party situation. Parties can be from the same organization or from different organizations and the situation can range from an informal agreement to a formal contract.

The processes in this International Standard can be used as a basis for establishing business environments, e.g. methods, techniques, tools and trained personnel. It provides a process reference model characterized in terms of the process purpose and the process outcomes that result from their successful implementation. This International Standard can therefore be used as a reference model to support process assessment as specified in ISO/IEC TR 15504-2.

1.3 Limitations

This International Standard does not detail the life cycle processes in terms of methods or procedures required to meet the requirements and outcomes of a process.

This International Standard does not detail documentation in terms of name, format, explicit content and recording media.